

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2973
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
PRIMARY EDUCATION
Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of students in primary schools has decreased during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal Schemes are yet to achieve their target to bring improvement in primary education; and
- (c) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to make these schemes more effective?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): The enrolment of children at primary level has reduced from 13.70 crore in 2011-12 to 13.48 crore in 2012-13 and 13.24 crore in 2013-14. This is due to birth rates coming down in some States, weeding out of duplicate enrolments and also due to non-reporting of data by some private schools.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) have effectively reduced the average annual drop-out rate at primary level from 6.50% in 2010-11 to 4.67% in 2012-13. Transition rate from primary to upper primary level has increased from 86.74% in 2011-12 to 89.58% in 2012-13.

In order to make these schemes more effective, robust monitoring and supervision mechanisms have been put in place. These include inter alia monitoring by district level monitoring committees headed by the senior most Member of Parliament, capacity building of school management committees, statutory audit, field monitoring by Monitoring Institutes etc.